

REMARKS

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated February 5, 2007. By way of this amendment, claims 34, 40 and 41 have been amended and new claims 42 and 43 have been added. Applicant respectfully submits that the amended claims more precisely define Applicant's invention. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added in the amendment to claim 34 and new claims 42 and 43 (see ¶ [0022] for support for plasticizer solubilities). Accordingly, in light of the foregoing amendments to the claims and new claims 42 and 43, and the following remarks, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 34-43 are presently under consideration and in condition for allowance.

35 U.S.C. § 103(a) REJECTIONS

Claims 34-39 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tuckey (US Patent Number 5,727,529) in view of Yamagishi et al. (US Patent Number 6,003,876), and in further view of Hisada (US Patent Number 3,834,231). Also, claims 40-41 are rejected over Tuckey in view of Yamagishi et al. and Hansen et al., and further in view of Scott et al. (US Patent Number 4,488,341). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections and submits that newly amended claims 34-41 and new claims 42 and 43 are now distinguished from the cited prior art and define patentable subject matter. Specifically, claim 34 has been amended, in part, to recite the solubility of the plasticizer in the resin of the coating composition. As set forth in paragraph [0022], this solubility results in unexpected bonding of diaphragm to flange. This feature is neither disclosed nor suggested in the references of record.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Applicants submit that the specification and claims are in proper form and clearly define patentability over the prior art. Therefore, reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of the subject application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney. The Commissioner is directed to charge or debit any additional fees or refunds required, to Deposit Account No. 13-2855 of Marshall, Gerstein & Borun LLP.

Respectfully submitted,

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